

The Daily Times.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

THE REMOVAL OF LIBBY PRISON.

A good deal has been said and written about the proposed purchase and removal, from this city to Chicago, of Libby prison, and a number of opinions have been expressed as to the position which this city should take regarding this scheme of certain Northern speculators to make money out of relics of the late unfortunate war between the States. On one side it is contended that our people should protest against the removal of the prison, because it will be a standing recollection of the war, which will be used by the enemies of the South to fasten a stigma upon her fair name. On the other, it is claimed that if the Northern people prefer to purchase Southern prisons, and so perpetuate the places made memorable on account of the large number of enemies which the South, single handed and alone, was able to capture from the world which had combined against her, they should be allowed perfect liberty to do so.

So far as the stigma which the proposed removal of Libby Prison would cast upon the South, we fail to recognize it. It would be rather a monument to Southern valor and manhood, when it is remembered that the South, with all the tremendous odds against her, was able to cope so successfully with her enemies, that she could fill her prisons without any trouble. And as to the alleged cruel treatment prisoners received, it is a matter of established history that the Southern captives at Fort Delaware, Point Lookout, Johnson's Island, and elsewhere in the North, fared much more hardily, and experienced much greater mortality than did the Northern prisoners at Belle Isle, Libby, or Andersonville. This was conclusively shown by official statistics some years ago when Hon. Ben Hill of Georgia made his famous reply to James G. Blaine, who was rash enough to touch on so delicate a subject.

Still, while the proposed removal of Libby Prison would eventually result in a tribute to Southern manhood, and in shame to the North itself, it is not desirable that it should be consummated. We are now a reunited country. The South made a gallant fight for her principles, and has nothing of which to be ashamed; but when she surrendered at Appomattox she did so in good faith, and on her part, is willing to bend her energies towards the progress and prosperity of our common land. If the North was actuated by the same spirit, she would prefer to raze all buildings calculated to keep alive sectional prejudice. If she does not desire this, but had rather perpetuate memories that had better be forgotten, the South has nothing to fear, and can well utilize the capital which she will thereby receive.

Dr. McGlynn and Henry George have had a rupture, ostensibly because Mr. George would not consent to run an Anti-Poverty party and candidate. These two worthies never had any distinct idea of what any class of people wanted, or else they might not have disagreed. They are exponents of sensations natural to an age of rapid movement and ever varying adjustments incident to the antagonistic action of capitalistic organizations and labor organizations.

A popular excitement in a class of people calls for something they know not what, and it produces leaders who attempt to formulate a plan for getting something, whereby the leaders are directing powers until their followers find out that they only propose to destroy a system only to leave us without any order at all.

The confagration, or the prospect of it, is more exciting than the quiet, steady work of the architect, and the whole of the George and McGlynn idea is to propose a confagration because the house is a poor one.

But nothing they have said shows that they could build another one.

Rhine wine and seltzer is evidently the tippie for men desirous of obtaining oratorical inspiration. It is reported that on the occasion of Bismarck's recent speech in the Reichstag, when all Europe was listening as to whether he would preach peace or war, he was presented with this concoction seventeen times.

From the length of the speech it is intimated that the great German Chancellor drank about a half pint of the wine of his country during his effort, and as he made a grand success our American statesmen can now experiment on the difference between Rhine wine and seltzer, and whiskey and water.

TILDEN.

The Tilden dinner in Brooklyn last week was the prominent event in political circles, in fact was a "revival" in memory of the "Sage of Gramercy Park" that moved the Democratic heart to its inward depths. In this lightning age a whole country flashes its sparks of thought on a group at a banquet, and the orator present is not more potent to move the minds of men than the politician who throws into the group a brilliant idea by letter or by wire.

From the President and several members of the Cabinet the messages indicated that there was not quite as much "Mugwump" in the Administration as some people think, and that the party spirit of the Democrats has its stronghold in the power constituted by a majority of the people in 1884. Mr. Tilden showed himself a wise man, a patriot, and a statesman, and his figure in history will represent the regeneration and rescue of the country from Republican misrule. Mr. Cleveland was the accomplishment of the Democratic victory of 1876, in which the sound principles of the party triumphed over those theories of the Republican party recognized as inimical to our system of government. As for the personal characteristics that have been factors in those great national contests, no man since the war is thus far so stamped with the impress of political sagacity as Mr. Tilden. His cool and almost infallible judgment was the balance-wheel of his party, and at the supreme moment it prompted him to that act which made self-sacrifice more available for the future success of his party than a violent appeal to the just indignation of the outraged people.

The Democracy is on more solid ground to-day because of the calm submission of Mr. Tilden to the theft of the office to which he was chosen, for the conspirators have only been showing themselves since that time in darker colors that more plainly displays their real character.

The occasion, though a festive one, has a certain memorial character which should be remembered as the celebration of one of the incidents of our history that is a warning. It is true that the presidency was stolen by one set of conspirators, but we are quite certain that another set conceived the plan for a similar joke in 1884, and the scare that came over their council when they heard the mutterings of the people will doubtless convince the Republicans that the Hayes crime was the first and last of its sort.

The disruption of the Anti-poverty party is thus happily hit off by the New York Times:

"A schism is a bad thing for a party when it occurs in February of a presidential year. It is a particularly bad thing when it occurs in a 'third party,' for it is hard, with the utmost harmony, to attract strength enough to a third party in a presidential year to 're-cognition,' either as a Cave of Adullam for disgruntled voters or as an effectual ally to either of the principal parties. A third party of two, divided against itself, cannot stand, and that seems to be the condition of the United Labor or Anti-Poverty party. Last week that organization consisted, so far as the public knew, of Mr. Henry George and Dr. McGlynn. This week it consists of either, or perhaps neither, but certainly not both."

From this it appears that the Anti-Poverty forces has split in twain beyond any hope of recovery. It is almost as bad as the Mahone-Sherman bubble in Virginia.

Her Majesty Queen Victoria is described as delivering from the throne a perfunctory and mild speech, but the following words rather contradict that criticism. She said among other things that "the measures which at great labor you passed last session for the benefit of Ireland have been carefully carried into effect during the period since elapsed. The result of this legislation, so far as tested by this sort of experience, is satisfactory."

Mr. Gladstone's speech seems to indicate a policy of conservative patience and a desire to avoid a course of obstructive legislation that might impede the tide that is turning in his favor. The session of Parliament opened rather listlessly. The ministry regards the operations of Mr. Balfour as successful. The Government's policy was shown to be firm, and an Irish leader who had defied arrest at home was arrested just outside of the Parliament house.

The TIMES every Monday morning will give you the full telegraphic and local news up to 12 o'clock Sunday night.

The First Deed in English.

CREAM OF THE PRESS.

NEW YORK LEADING JOURNALS ON LIVING ISSUES.

Great Britain's Irish Policy—The New York (Republican) Little Game—Conkling in Line—Immense Cost of the Panama Canal—George and McGlynn.

That is a very thoughtful and suggestive review of the struggles of Ireland which Mr. O'Connor Power gives in other columns.

For about eight hundred years now that ill-starred island, with its ever green fields and its sturdy peasantry, has been the under dog in the fight. Of no other people on the globe can it be said that they never had a chance to show what they could do. And no other victor nation except England has ever framed a policy for its dependency which originated in a persistent and apparently uncontrollable prejudice against the dependent race. The Anglo-Saxon hates the Celt, or if his hatred is ever tempered, that milder quality which tempers it is contempt. When Irish troops are in the British line of battle every Englishman knows that they will render a good account of themselves. Wellington was not over enthusiastic when he declared that the Irishmen make the best soldiers in the world.

Well, Parliament is in session once more, and we shall see what we shall see. The Tories are evidently disgusted with their own "manifesto," as Emerson has it. The Liberal party is at sixes and sevens, as related in our Commercial Cable dispatch, and afraid to move lest it fall into a ditch, and the Radicals have no plan except to push their cause, and see what will come of it.—N. Y. Herald.

The Republican papers throughout the State are just now engaged in extolling the excellent qualities of Governor Hill. You might possibly infer that the Republicans are undergoing a change of heart. Not so, however. It is only a little trick to split the Democratic party, making a Cleveland ally of a Hill, which would give them a chance to swallow the oyster. When successful it is a very interesting game to play.—N. Y. Herald.

"You needn't tell me," said a prominent Republican leader to me a day or two before this letter was printed, "that Mr. Conkling is not in line with the Republican party. He always was. He always must be. I can imagine, too, a situation which would bring him into the field during the next campaign, even if Blaine were the national candidate. I do not say that he would speak for Blaine, any more than he spoke for Garfield in 1880. He could omit Mr. Blaine at the same time that he advocated the claims of the Republican party of the nation, but more especially for this can Mr. Conkling be a master of this kind of discrimination—and for that matter I believe he is less bitter against Blaine than he is in the last national campaign. I believe, too, I firmly believe—that he would like to get back into politics, with the object in view, for one thing, of vindicating himself against the claims and the fawning of the Democratic party. He is a very proud man, and he will not be satisfied to remain in private life with the suspicion attaching to him that he is treacherous to the party which for so many years did so much for him."—Correspondence Albany Journal.

The Engineering News republishes from *Le Genie Civil* a plan of the proposed Panama Canal with locks, as approved by the consulting engineers of the commission, with description and measurements. M. De Lesseps would have the ignorant believe that the canal will be carried down to the sea level throughout the entire course except a short distance in the Culebra division, but this plan shows the first lock on one side only five miles from Panama, and the first on the other side only fourteen miles from Colon. There are to be ten locks in all, not bunched near the "massive central section," but scattered along through a distance of twenty-four miles. The summit level is to be 160.72 feet above the level of the sea, in water to feed it can be obtained. The next level is at a height of 124.44 feet, and water even for this can be procured only from the great reservoir which will be made by the erection of the proposed dam at Gamboa for the regulation of the Chagres. Water from the summit level must be pumped up from this lower level. It will be noticed that the proposed canal with locks will require the construction of the huge dam, whose cost was estimated by the company long ago at \$25,000,000, and recently by other authorities, according to the report of the Columbian agent, at more than \$30,000,000.—N. Y. Times.

About the only event of importance in local political circles last week was the starting on different roads of those former friends and allies, Edward McGlynn and Henry George. The statement made by the former at Pythagoras Hall on Thursday night to the effect that Henry George would hereafter have to travel his own way politically if he persisted in his free trade ideas, was the overt declaration of hostilities which have for some time been fermenting. While the Labor party does not at this time cut a very large figure in either city or State affairs, the possible closeness of the presidential election, of the State contest, and of the city fight, make every factor of the city vote important; and disagreements and divisions, which at other times would not receive much more than passing notice, are now quite potent in shaping the course of parties, and perhaps they may prove to be not without effect in guiding the choice of candidates.—Sun.

There is, perhaps, no better way to describe the brazen assurance with which the Central Pacific men put forth their claim for "equities" than to say that it is fully up to the level of their plundering operations. It is the most monstrous thing of its kind in the history of this or of any other nation.

One of the "equities" is pay for having completed the road seven years before the time allowed by Congress had elapsed. The company really hurried its work in a race with the Union Pacific for land grants, and was in other ways prompted by an early completion. It hastened purely for its own gain, and this claim against the Government is enough to make an owl smile. It is one of the most desperate of afterthoughts.—N. Y. World.

STRAY BITS.

The parcel post in England is very popular. Nearly 130,000 parcels are handled by it every day.

It takes every year 1,000,000 horses' tails to keep a Pawtucket (R. I.) haircloth factory in running order.

It is said that there are more millionaires in Buenos Ayres than in any other city of its size in the world.

An Anglican curate performed the marriage ceremony for a child 11 years old in Kensington, England, recently.

An unfortunate Maine baby that happened to be born on the day of her grandparents' golden wedding was named Anna Versery.

The opera is said to be having a hard time all over the world; but twenty-five new ones were produced in Germany last year and thirty-five in Italy.

Dr. Merriman, of North Adams, Mass., is riding this winter in a sleigh that is 235 years old. It was made in 1693 for his great-grandfather, and has been in the family ever since.

A petition for the suppression of bull fighting in the Federal district of Mexico, including the City of Mexico, is receiving the signatures of thousands of the capital's citizens.

The desert of Sahara has been largely reclaimed by French enterprise. Forty-three oases have been created, having 12,000 inhabitants, 120,000 forest trees, and 100,000 fruit trees.

The Electrical Review says that the lightning rod is a relic of superstition, and that the day will come when a lightning rod on a house will be regarded in the same light as a horseshoe over a door.

A French beetle, while attending a funeral officially, caught sight of a hare in the cemetery, and after a chase killed it with his baton, and was fined 30 francs for killing game "with prohibited arms."

A railroad engineer of Erie, Pa., fell violently on the ice, striking on the back of his head. He is recovering, but finds when standing erect he is wholly blind, though he can see as well as ever when lying down.

The people of Exeter, N. H., are going to celebrate in June next the 250th anniversary of the settlement of their town, and have all the arrangements now made. These include the extra one of calling it by the name of the "quarter millennium."

There are no fewer than 2,075 general officers in the British army, to which may be added 1,675 generals who have retired. Nearly 300 generals are paid for making after dinner speeches about the "British" army always doing its duty.

Mr. and Mrs. James O. Robinson are solid citizens of Charleston, Mass. They have been married fifty years. Mr. Robinson weighs 373 pounds, Mrs. Robinson weighs 225, and of their seven living children none weighs less than 300 pounds.

According to statistics gathered by the Railroad Gazette, there were in December last ninety-two railroad collisions, eighty-three deaths and seven other accidents, making 122 in all, in which seventy-one persons were killed and 311 injured.

A little girl of Metz, 14 years old, named Louise Fuchs, has just been condemned to eight days imprisonment for having incited the emperor of Germany. The incident occurred in writing a private letter to one of her little friends, in which there was something disrespectful to his majesty. Such sentences are said to be quite common in Alsace-Lorraine, and they can add no strength to the popular love for the conquerors.

FACTS WORTH KNOWING.

It is a bad shovel over furniture to remove white spots.

To give a good oak color to a pine door wash in a solution of one pound of copperas dissolved in a gallon of strong lye.

To whiten the hands melt half an ounce of camphor gum, half an ounce of glycerine and one pound of nuttall oil, and apply every night.

A hornet's nest which has been deserted by the hornets, bound on the throat with a piece of flannel, will cure the most malignant sore throat.

Salt and water will prevent the hair from falling out, and will cause new hair to grow. Do not use so strong as to leave white particles upon the hair when dry.

To restore gilding to picture frames, remove all dust with a soft brush and wash the gilding in warm water in which an onion has been boiled, dry quickly with soft rags.

Mahogany furniture should be washed with warm water and soap, an application of beeswax and sweet oil upon a soft cloth, and polished with chamois, gives a rich finish.

Dishcloths may be removed by washing the face at night with hot water, then drying briefly with a crash towel and applying a mixture of one ounce of liquor of potassa and two ounces of cologne.

A free application of soft soap to a fresh burn almost instantly removes the fire from the flesh. If the injury is very severe, as soon as the pain ceases apply linseed oil and then dust over with fine flour. When this covering dries hard repeat the oil and flour dressing until a good coating is obtained.

When the latter dries allow it to stand until it cracks and falls off, as it will do in a day or two, and a new skin will be found to have formed where the skin was burned.

ON THE TURF.

E. J. Baldwin's stable will leave the Pacific slope for the east in April.

One of the leading features of the grand circus trotting matches in 1888 will doubtless be the team races.

Trotting to sleigh by electric light is the latest thing in turf sports. New Yorkers have been enjoying it at old Fleetwood park.

Murphy will begin joggling Maud S. on Feb. 28, and will put her in condition to defend her laurels should a rival appear in the field.

Just at present, Green Morris says, Sir Dixon will start for the Kentucky Derby. As a matter of fact he is more likely to start him for the American Derby.

The betting on the English Derby remains practically unchanged. The latest London figures on the favorites are: Friar's Balsam, 3 to 1 against; no takers; Orbit, 7 to 1 against; and Ayrshire, 8 to 1 against.

PROGRESS IN BALLOONS.

WHAT THE NATIONS HAVE DONE FOR WAR PURPOSES.

Steerable Balloons—a Necessity in the Wars of the Future—France Ahead of England and Germany—Her Recent Appliances Kept Secret.

The scientists have discovered nitro-glycerine, dynamite, melinite, and other explosives, which can be destroyed and fortifications blown to atoms; they have invented methods for the wholesale annihilation of everything and everybody, but they have not yet devised ways and means for the employment of the same, except in certain cases, which do not always present themselves. Mines sometimes are exploded at the last opportune moment, and are only practicable when they can be laid without let or hindrance during a siege, or on the supposition that the enemy will present himself exactly at the proper instant, while as charges to projectiles, they occasionally disappoint those who use them. And supposing even that they did invariably come up to great expectations, the field of their usefulness is necessarily limited, and must necessarily remain so until somebody does contrive ways and means by which they can be worked with as easily as ordinary common powder.

Rockets and balloons, you must know, are the particular desiderata at present—of course, I mean balloons and rockets that will go in the right direction and not behave eccentrically—and so far nobody has hit upon any method for their direction which has stood the test of practical experience, although "the man who is well informed" has hinted that at last a solution has been found to the very interesting problem of aerial navigation.

With directable balloons we shall be invincible, sing in chorus the big newspapers, for, let a Frenchman—he has an Italian name, but was born Transalpine—a patriot who has refused the most tempting foreign offers, is about to endow his country with a "blessing." Where will an enemy be what can he do if he, sailing above his head, can learn and so forestall his every movement, not to speak of the dismay and terror sown in his ranks, dominated by the explosives which we will shower down upon his head? I should say, effectively, that the enemy will be nowhere, only I am very much inclined to believe, having studied pretty thoroughly all that has been said and accomplished in aeronautics, which, if we were to have believed announcements similar to those made now a twelvemonth ago, had even then been reduced to a positive certainty by Capt. Krebs at the aerostatic laboratory of Meudon.

That steerable fro balloons will be very useful in war cannot be questioned, judging from what was accomplished with the Captive balloon at Maauberge, Flunin, Charleroi and Antwerp in 1814, at Venice in 1849, at Richmond in June 1862, at Pass-Pach, in Paraguay twenty years ago. On the 24th of September Mr. Jaurès, an apothecary of Metz, attempted to communicate with the National Defense government by means of small aerostats, and in the course of the following two days did get safely to their destination, and returned with the 997 messages sent from the beleaguered city, and during the siege of Paris, thanks to MM. Yon, D'Arson and the brothers Godard, 155 persons, 363 carrier pigeons and 3,000,000 of letters reached the provinces by means of balloons between the 23d of September, 1870, and the 23d of January, 1871. But these results, although encouraging, only proved that communications might possibly be kept up aerially; they were not absolutely satisfactory, as the aerostats were always exposed to aleatory risks dependent upon atmospheric circumstances, so that there never could be any certainty of where they would land.

I suppose, however, that the Meudon people have accomplished something serious in the course of the past three years, as the French army has now a regular balloon train, with two officers, ninety-four men and seven vehicles, including a "hydrogen wagon," for field service, and a fortress service of five officers and 140 non-commissioned officers and privates, which organization has been taken as a model by Italy, Russia and Belgium, the countries in which, next to France, most interest has been manifested in this question.

In England military aeronautics only began to be developed in 1878, when a series of experiments were made at Woolwich under the directions of Capt. Noble, assisted by Capt. Lee, Elsdale and Tupper, the latter an aeronaut of acknowledged competency. But their experiments were only with captive balloons—the Saracen, the Talcott, the Crusader, the Pioneer, etc.—and did not touch on the question of the most important problem, how to steer balloons, which problem still remains as it was when balloons were used in Afghanistan, Zululand and Egypt.

In Germany the balloon question is still less advanced, although France's powerful enemy has spared no effort to get at her neighbor's secrets. There was an attempt made not long ago, at the sham siege of Mayence, when one balloon was lost altogether and the other just escaped destruction, while, still more recently, the staff officers who, near Berlin, undertook to calculate from a balloon car the distance between the two armies, not only failed to do so, but were obliged to give up the job altogether, as their machines could never be raised to the required altitude. In spite of all the money spent the German aerostatic corps is as badly provided with the apparatus and appliances as it was in 1870, when a detachment, trained at Coblenz, could only attain an altitude of 133 feet at Bischofsheim, when it was desired to obtain a bird's eye view of Strasbourg.

And the conclusion is that the French are still a long way ahead of all other nations, although there is reason to suppose the probability of a disagreeable surprise on the part of Belgium, by which, as Belgium is accused of philo-Tonic proclivities, the Germans will profit. It is somewhat singular that, given the inventive genius of our countrymen, America should have given birth to nothing more important than those balloon torpedoes which were so much talked about early in the year 1880, and which are by no means an originality, as in 1813 a German inventor proposed a balloon system to the Russian government, by which Napoleon and all his staff were to have been eliminated.

What the French have now succeeded in doing it is impossible to know, as they keep it a profound secret, and no longer admit even native reporters to witness their experiments. Perhaps they have quite succeeded, perhaps they have not; and for the reason that they keep their secrets to themselves, the public remains skeptical.—Paris Cor. New York Times.

Too Free Perspiration.

Many persons are much troubled from too free perspiration. It is a cause of annoyance to many very neat people, and a certain preventive of any odor arising is the simple use of common cooking soda. Wash in strong solution of soda, and wet the soda and put a little under the arms.

This will be found invaluable to some people.

Life Among the Tarascans.

"One thing at a time" is the principle of life among the Tarascans. Perhaps it is carried to exaggeration, but it produces wonderful results. If of a Sunday morning you saunter down the road leading up from the lake to Patzcuaro you will meet thousands of the Tarascans coming to market with their wares and products to sell.

Each Tarascan, or family of Tarascans, will have a stock of one thing. It may be earthenware; it may be the flat pancakes called tortillas; it may be fish; it may be feather work. Whatever it is the quality will surprise you.

The traveler sees a good deal of the one idea principle in other parts of Mexico. Going down through the heart of the table land from El Paso to the City of Mexico he encounters it in a striking manner.

At Leon he is beset to buy the woven wraps called serapes. The numerous peddlers have nothing but serapes to sell. A few hours further down the road, at the station of Queretaro, the stock in trade of the platform vendors is opals, nothing but opals. At Calera fifty men and boys thrust boxes of "dulces" in one's face and will not take a refusal to buy, as long as the train stops. The dulces are sweet, paste like compounds, flavored with pineapple and other fruits. They are offered in little, round wooden boxes, and are of all sorts of colors. The round boxes are assorted, according to flavors, and packed in long boxes of varying sizes and prices. Calera is known all over the republic for its sweets.

Within two hours' ride of Calera is Irapuato, where strawberries can be bought at the station every month in the year. The peddlers have nothing but strawberries, but they always have them put up in quart, two quart and three quart home-made baskets of willow—great, luscious berries. Probably the fruit could be cultivated with equal success elsewhere, but it isn't Irapuato has the monopoly of strawberries. Even Mexicans, passing through and going 500 miles beyond, buy a basket of strawberries at Irapuato, just as they always get off at San Juan del Rio, further down the road, to buy lard. There is a little rope walk in front of nearly every house at San Juan del Rio, and the people do scarcely anything but manufacture lariats the year round.—Cor. Globe-Democrat.

Character in Autographs.

Recent statements about the economic and wise mother of Napoleon show that he, while always speaking to her in Italian, wrote to her in French. How she ever contrived to decipher his manuscript, if that she ever developed corresponding contrivances of his signature, we cannot divine, unless, indeed, as often happens, there is a way of reading with the understanding heart as well as the affectionate eye.

Notoriously bad writers like Choate, Greeley and Balzac have always some body contemporaneous who can readily interpret their hieroglyphics, and when a noted western editor furnished copy that any printer might suppose to be ancient Egyptian, there was born into the world a compositor in that town who preferred it to copper plate inscriptions and set it up with celerity and dispatch.

Tracing a man's character by his handwriting is deceptive unless we know the man's career by heart, and then we divine what is not hidden. At the same time it is not a little curious to follow the convulsions of Napoleon's signature from the obscure time of an artillery lieutenant to the victory of Austerlitz, the retreat from Waterloo and captivity on that "lonely, barren isle in the midst of the ocean." We may not agree with the deductions made from the specimens given, but curiosity will be provoked and gratified in a peculiar way if nothing else.—Baltimore American.

Strange Sights in Cuba.

In Havana bay there are certainly 1,000 lighters constantly in use, so that 3,000 men are thus employed and at least 15,000 souls thus comfortably sustained. That the French army has now a regular balloon train, with two officers, ninety-four men and seven vehicles, including a "hydrogen wagon," for field service, and a fortress service of five officers and 140 non-commissioned officers and privates, which organization has been taken as a model by Italy, Russia and Belgium, the countries in which, next to France, most interest has been manifested in this question.

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The scientists have discovered nitro-glycerine, dynamite, melinite, and other explosives, which can be destroyed and fortifications blown to atoms; they have invented methods for the wholesale annihilation of everything and everybody, but they have not yet devised ways and means for the employment of the same, except in certain cases, which do not always present themselves. Mines sometimes are exploded at the last opportune moment, and are only practicable when they can be laid without let or hindrance during a siege, or on the supposition that the enemy will present himself exactly at the proper instant, while as charges to projectiles, they occasionally disappoint those who use them. And supposing even that they did invariably come up to great expectations, the field of their usefulness is necessarily limited, and must necessarily remain so until somebody does contrive ways and means by which they can be worked with as easily as ordinary common powder.

Rockets and balloons, you must know, are the particular desiderata at present—of course, I mean balloons and rockets that will go in the right direction and not behave eccentrically—and so far nobody has hit upon any method for their direction which has stood the test of practical experience, although "the man who is well informed" has hinted that at last a solution has been found to the very interesting problem of aerial navigation.

With directable balloons we shall be invincible, sing in chorus the big newspapers, for, let a Frenchman—he has an Italian name, but was born Transalpine—a patriot who has refused the most tempting foreign offers, is about to endow his country with a "blessing." Where will an enemy be what can he do if he, sailing above his head, can learn and so forestall his every movement, not to speak of the dismay and terror sown in his ranks, dominated by the explosives which we will shower down upon his head? I should say, effectively, that the enemy will be nowhere, only I am very much inclined to believe, having studied pretty thoroughly all that has been said and accomplished in aeronautics, which, if we were to have believed announcements similar to those made now a twelvemonth ago, had even then been reduced to a positive certainty by Capt. Krebs at the aerostatic laboratory of Meudon.

That steerable fro balloons will be very useful in war cannot be questioned, judging from what was accomplished with the Captive balloon at Maauberge, Flunin, Charleroi and Antwerp in 1814, at Venice in 1849, at Richmond in June 1862, at Pass-Pach, in Paraguay twenty years ago. On the 24th of September Mr. Jaurès, an apothecary of Metz, attempted to communicate with the National Defense government by means of small aerostats, and in the course of the following two days did get safely to their destination, and returned with the 997 messages sent from the beleaguered city, and during the siege of Paris, thanks to MM. Yon, D'Arson and the brothers Godard, 155 persons, 363 carrier pigeons and 3,000,000 of letters reached the provinces by means of balloons between the 23d of September, 1870, and the 23d of January, 1871. But these results, although encouraging, only proved that communications might possibly be kept up aerially; they were not absolutely satisfactory, as the aerostats were always exposed to aleatory risks dependent upon atmospheric circumstances, so that there never could be any certainty of where they would land.

I suppose, however, that the Meudon people have accomplished something serious in the course of the past three years, as the French army has now a regular balloon train, with two officers, ninety-four men and seven vehicles, including a "hydrogen wagon," for field service, and a fortress service of five officers and 140 non-commissioned officers and privates, which organization has been taken as a model by Italy, Russia and Belgium, the countries in which, next to France, most interest has been manifested in this question.

In England military aeronautics only began to be developed in 1878, when a series of experiments were made at Woolwich under the directions of Capt. Noble, assisted by Capt. Lee, Elsdale and Tupper, the latter an aeronaut